



**U.S. Department of
Transportation**
Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
DOCKET

Assistant Secretary

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

DEC 2 2008

The Honorable Rick Larsen
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Larsen:

Thank you for your letter of November 7, supporting a request by American Airlines, British Airways, Iberia Airlines, Finnair, and Royal Jordanian for a grant of antitrust immunity to operate an integrated alliance. The Secretary has asked that I respond on her behalf.

The U.S. Department of Transportation's review of this request is part of a public proceeding in which interested parties have the opportunity to comment. The Department carefully considers all requests for antitrust immunity, beginning with a review of the record to assess whether there is sufficient information to make a reasoned decision that satisfies all statutory requirements. Decisions regarding requests for antitrust immunity are made after consultation with the Department of Justice, and are based upon statutory standards that include antitrust principles. As this proceeding is pending, I am sure you understand that I cannot comment on the merits of the case. I assure you, however, that the Department will give full and fair consideration to the Joint Applicants' request, as well as all comments in the docket.

As is our normal practice, I am placing a copy of your letter and this response in Docket OST-2008-0252 as a contact outside the record in this matter. I appreciate your interest in this proceeding. An identical letter has been sent to each consigner of your letter.

Sincerely yours,

Michael W. Reynolds
Acting Assistant Secretary for
Aviation and International Affairs

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

S10-081119-003

November 7, 2008

The Honorable Mary E. Peters
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Peters:

We are writing to convey our strong support for the joint application for antitrust immunity recently filed by American Airlines in conjunction with its transatlantic oneworld partners—British Airways, Iberia Airlines of Spain, Finnair, and Royal Jordanian.

American Airlines and its partners have a strong presence in the State of Washington. In addition to operating 13 daily departures from Seattle, American employs more than 160 employees and is indirectly responsible for an estimated 1,000 additional jobs throughout Washington. From an economic standpoint, it is estimated that American Airlines directly and indirectly generates over \$323 million in economic activity in Washington. Moreover, British Airways operates two daily departures aboard Boeing 747-400 aircraft from Seattle nonstop to London Heathrow every day of the week except Friday, when they operate one daily departure.

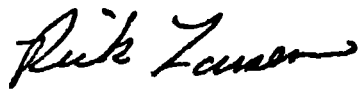
With the Department of Transportation's (DOT) approval of its application, American Airlines and its transatlantic oneworld partners will be in a position to compete more effectively on a global basis by leveling the playing field with the Star and the SkyTeam alliances that have long enjoyed the exact same approval that American and its partners are seeking. This will enhance competition while simultaneously generating significant benefits for our Washington constituents and travelers around the nation.

We strongly encourage your expeditious review of this application and urge its approval by the DOT.

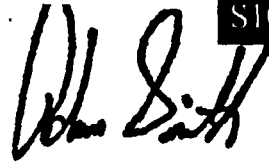
Sincerely,


Senator Patty Murray


Representative Norm Dicks



Representative Rick Larsen



Representative Adam Smith



Representative Brian Baird